MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

FOR

JOHN SEXTON (JACK) GANNON

Jack Gannon, a talented, thoughtful and compassionate man of many dimensions, passed away on August 9th at the age of 87. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 61 years, Diane, in February of 2013.

Jack was born in East Orange, New Jersey, but grew up in Royal Oak, Michigan where he met Diane. Following his graduation from high school in 1945 Jack enlisted in the United States Navy and served as an aviation machinist’s mate for two years. Later, following his graduation from the University of Michigan in 1951, Jack returned to the Navy for two more years, serving this time as an ensign. Following this stint, Jack returned to Michigan and worked as a labor negotiator and employee relations supervisor for Chrysler Corporation until entering law school at Wayne State University in 1958.

In the years prior to college and law school Jack had developed marketable skills that, along
with the GI bill, helped pay for his educational endeavors. Beginning at the age of 12 Jack found work as a magician; working birthday parties, bar mitzvahs, and any other events that might pay. In later years his childrens' birthdays allowed him to keep his skills sharp. Until late in life Jack continued to subscribe to trade journals dealing with the magician's craft, and he kept his card decks and other props among his treasured belongings. When work as a magician was a little slow, Jack tapped into the revenue stream offered by the pool halls of Detroit and its grittier suburbs.

Jack began his legal career in 1961 with the legal department of the Ex-Cell-O Corporation in Detroit. In 1965, Jack, Diane and their young family moved to Atlanta where Jack joined the growing labor law firm, then known as Constagny and Brooks. It was not long, however, before a major employer in Nashville came calling upon the law firm seeking advice on employment issues. In the course of these inquiries the company's representatives met Jack, and deciding they needed in-house advice on a range of employment issues, broached the idea of hiring Jack rather than retaining the law firm. The upshot of these
discussions was that the Gannon family picked up again and moved to Nashville in 1966. Jack remained as Vice President of Employee Relations & Labor Counsel for Werthan Industries until 1980 when he joined Dearborn & Ewing where he also continued to represent Werthan Industries. Jack remained with Dearborn & Ewing until 1990, when he established his own practice in human resources and Social Security disability law. In addition to these areas Jack developed a significant practice in mediation and arbitration, focusing primarily on employment and related issues. It was the employment of his substantial skills in these latter areas of dispute resolution that provided his greatest professional satisfaction. From 1975 through 1985, in addition to his duties with Werthan and Dearborn & Ewing, Jack was a lecturer at the Owen School of Management at Vanderbilt, focusing upon labor relations and business law. These academic pursuits were complimented over the years with numerous presentations at seminars and to association meetings. Jack continued to practice law into his eighties, when health issues intervened.
Although Jack grew up in an era of, and participated in, intense labor and management confrontations and the strife that accompanied them, scorched earth negotiations and total defeat of the other side, did not reflect Jack's core beliefs or view of the world. Jack's parents, aunts and uncles were dedicated to public service and followed careers as teachers, firemen and policemen. He derived a strong sense of social justice from these influences, and his marriage to Diane only reinforced them. In representing the interests of his management clients, and mindful of his role of zealous advocacy, Jack did not lose sight of the concerns and interests of those on the other side. Over the years, in successfully advising and counseling his clients, Jack took the insightful view that employees should be seen as human resources rather than adversaries simply to be vanquished. Indeed, Jack specialized in human resources law long before that term, and its broader meaning, came into vogue. In establishing his practice in 1991 Jack made it a priority to provide legal assistance and representation to individuals and groups who would otherwise been voiceless and powerless. In more recent years this focus was more specifically directed toward immigrant groups.
This sense of social justice and the essential worth of the individual found expression beyond the practice of law in Jack’s membership in the Social Action Committee of St. Henry’s Church, and perhaps more visibly as a member of the Metro Human Relations Commission, and as one of the founders of the Nashville chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, now Community Nashville, an ecumenical organization dedicated to the eradication of bias, bigotry and prejudice in our community. An example and substantive application of Jack’s beliefs was his role in integrating the local Knights’ of Columbus chapter. Jack simply brought African American friends to club activities and dinners. If there were any complaints, they never reached the level of public comment.

Jack was a longstanding member of a country club. Diane failed to appreciate the irony and declined to participate in the benefits of membership. In any event, Jack liked to play golf, and was skilled in doing so. He did decline, however, to don all the trappings membership in such an exclusive organization would seemingly require. He insisted over the years, for example,
in driving old beat-up automobiles that no self-respecting used car dealer would allow on their lot. His children were convinced that this perversity was designed only to embarrass them, but others saw it as an effort to show he had not lost track of all his values. Consistent with this view, Jack insisted in walking the course when he played his round. This was years before walking the course became popular, and when other members did not approve of walkers. Nevertheless, Jack loved the exercise, and perhaps saving the cart fees as well. He was a very proficient in walking at a brisk pace and took pride in never slowing the pace of play on the course.

Jack is survived by his and Diane's four children: Polly, John, Lanie and Jamie, three grandchildren; Ki and Jack Oglivie, and Amy Pieterse, and one great grandchild, Alexandra Barkhin; three brothers and a sister.

Jack Gannon's life on this earth is done, but death can do nothing to destroy the beauty of that life and the glow it left for those of us who remain. His was a life well lived, and the world is a better place for it.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Nashville Bar Association, solemnly express our profound appreciation for the life and work of John Sexton Gannon. We recognize and honor his contributions to his family, his friends, his state, and his nation, and we mourn his death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this memorial resolution be placed in the permanent records of the Nashville Bar Association, and entered in the "In Memorium" minute book of the Chancery Court for Davidson County and that copies of this resolution be furnished to the members of Jack Gannon's family.

This 20th day of November, 2014.
Respectfully submitted,

Frank Grace, Jr.

Stephen C. Baker

Edwin S. Pyle

The motion is well taken, and it is, therefore; ORDERED that it be, and hereby is, Granted.

This 20 day of November, 2014.

Chancellor